



Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
**DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING &  
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**

Deval L. Patrick, Governor ♦ Timothy P. Murray, Lt. Governor ♦ Tina Brooks, Undersecretary

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**PATRICK-MURRAY ADMINISTRATION, MAYOR MENINO  
CELEBRATE GROUNDBREAKING OF CHINATOWN HOUSING  
PROJECT**

*Project to provide job creation, affordable senior housing, and community  
space for Chinatown*

BOSTON – Thursday, August 4, 2011 – Undersecretary of Housing and Community Development Tina Brooks today joined Boston Mayor Thomas Menino, MassDevelopment and The Greater Boston Chinese Golden Age Center in celebrating the groundbreaking of Hong Lok House, a new affordable housing development in Boston's Chinatown. When completed, the project will feature 74 new apartments for low-income seniors as well as recreational space for residents and community members.

"We are committed to invest in projects that create jobs for Massachusetts workers today and build stronger communities for tomorrow," said Governor Deval Patrick. "With the help of our federal, local and community partners, Hong Lok House will do just that."

"As we continue to invest in more affordable housing opportunities in cities and towns across Massachusetts, we are pleased to work with our local and federal partners to support projects like this that not only provide better housing facilities for some of our most vulnerable seniors, but also create immediate construction jobs that will benefit this community and the Commonwealth," said Lieutenant Governor Timothy Murray, Chair of the Governor's Interagency Council on Housing and Homelessness.

The project furthers the Patrick-Murray Administration's commitment to job creation, affordable housing and smart growth. Eight units in the new Hong Lok House will be reserved for homeless elders. Twenty-eight units will be reserved for elders at or below 30 percent of the area median income, and 38 units for elders at or below 50 percent of the area median income.

"I'm proud that this project will preserve affordable housing for our elderly community, offering residents convenient access to the services they need in a sustainable place that they are proud to call home," said

Mayor Menino. "I want to congratulate The Greater Boston Chinese Golden Age Center for having provided housing stability to our senior citizens since 1972 – that's an incredible contribution to our community."

"It's always a great day when more seniors have a place to call home. I want to express my gratitude to the Greater Boston Chinese Golden Age Center and Rogerson Communities for committing to this project. The Hong Lok House will create jobs, improve the quality of life for local seniors and enrich the surrounding neighborhood," said Senator Sonia Chang-Diaz.

"Today we come one step closer to providing real affordable housing to our senior population in Chinatown. I want to congratulate the Greater Boston Chinese Golden Age Center and Rogerson Communities for all of their hard work and dedication in making today a reality," said Representative Aaron Michlewitz.

The development will meet the U.S. Green Building Council's LEED Silver standard. The LEED Silver building, developed by Rogerson Communities, will provide an adult day health program, a T'ai Chi deck, as well as a senior drop-in center offering community space, fitness programs and ballroom dancing. The project is funded through both public and private resources including \$5.2 million in state subsidies from the Department of Housing and Community Development and \$17 million in equity generated by the sale of federal and state low-income housing tax credits. The development of Hong Lok House is expected to create an estimated 192 jobs once construction begins.

"It is important that we continue the work of bringing together federal, state and local resources to create affordable housing for all populations across the Commonwealth," said Undersecretary Brooks. "Hong Lok House is the culmination of tremendous efforts by all involved."

"The new Hong Lok project will replace an aging affordable housing development with a facility that expands services for the elderly in Boston," said MassDevelopment President and CEO Marty Jones. "Stimulating economic development through affordable housing is a main part of MassDevelopment's mission, and we're pleased to provide access to low-cost financing to provide better living conditions for a vulnerable population."

The Greater Boston Chinese Golden Age Center was founded in 1972 after neighborhood activists – members of community organizations, merchants, professionals, students, and elderly residents – recognized the lack of supportive services for Chinese-speaking elders. The organization's goal is to promote the general welfare of Chinese-speaking Asian elders by providing programs and services that help them to maintain their independence and live at home. Today, the agency provides congregate housing and a comprehensive network of services such as nutrition, adult day health, elder-at-risk, lifeline and transportation programs. The agency serves approximately 1,200 people per day through its programs and services.

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